Multi-Dimensional Problems of Calcutta

731. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the multi-dimensional problems of Calcutta metropolitan city, namely, density of population, migration into the city, overcrowding in Rapid Mass Transport System, Calcutta Port, Calcutta Airport etc.

(b) if so, description of the problems, item-wise; and

(c) the response of Government in relation thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Urban Development being a State subject, the details of individual city problems such as density of population, migration into city and over-crowding in rapid mass transport system, etc. are monitored and maintained by the state Governments (for Calcutta, by Government of West Bengal). As far as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport at Calcutta is concerned, there is no over-crowding problem at present. In respect of Calcutta Port, there is no congestion excepting year-to-year problem of draft in river Hughli due to siltation.

(c) Considering the problems of Calcutta, the city has been included under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities. Under this scheme, funds for undertaking infrastructural development works are being made available from 1993-94. During last year, a sum of Rs. 16.1 crores of Central assistance was released to Calcutta.

With a view to minimising the use of personalised vehicles and reducing the traffic on urban roads in Calcutta, Ministry of Railways has taken up the construction of a metro rail corridor of 16.5 Kms. from Dum Dum to Tollygunge. Out of this, 14.65 kms (from Dum Dum to Girish Park and Tollygunge to Central) has already been opened to traffic. Government of West Bengal has also got a Feasibility Study conducted by M/s RITES for extending the above Metro Corridor from Tollygunge to New Garia over a distance of 8.45 kms.

Financial Assistance to Private Publishers by National Book Trust

732. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Book Trust provides financial assistance to the private publishers for the publication of books; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVEMENT (DEPTT. EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Book Trust, India, provides financial assistance to authors